

Welcome to the Summer 2010 edition of the Restore Our Water e-newsletter! With this edition we are highlighting new programs and partners. It is our hope that you connect with these new resources and do your part to inspire big changes for our local waters. As always, we encourage you to continue this conversation with us on-line. We invite you to visit us at our [homepage](#) and connect with us on SPU's [Facebook page](#). Have something to share? Fill out our [submission form](#) and we'll consider featuring your program in an upcoming edition! Questions? [Contact us](#)

Thanks and have a great summer!

How Do We Restore Our Waters?

The *Restore Our Waters Program* is intended to provide a science based approach for taking actions to improve the health of Seattle's urban watersheds. And here are three focus areas where you can make a difference:

Slow the Flow of Stormwater - Slowing the speed and volume of rain water running off our streets, buildings, homes and driveways

Prevent Pollution - Minimizing the amount of oil, bacteria, soaps and sediments that rain collects as it runs off hard surfaces on the way to the nearest creek or waterway

Restore Habitat - The quality of the trees, plants and in-water habitat provide the basis for wildlife to thrive

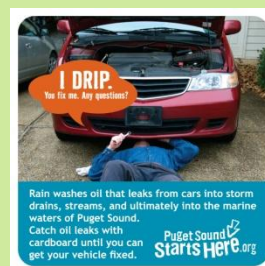


Salmon Bay is one area we are using science to guide restoration efforts. Learn more about the 1% for the Arts dedication with Native American artist Marvin Oliver in this e-news!

Restore Our Waters Coaster Kick Off

Have you seen the Restore Our Waters Coasters?

On August 5th, Restore Our Waters partnered with [Puget Sound Starts Here](#) to kick off our coaster campaign at Naked City Taphouse. The coasters are a fun way to raise awareness about what each of us can do to protect and improve our local waterways. Look for coasters around Seattle at participating restaurants and eateries. For more information, visit our website at www.seattle.gov/restoreourwaters.



Partnerships with Purpose: Fauntleroy Watershed Council

Project Brings Pollution Prevention Home to Low Income/Immigrant Families

Submitted by Judy Pickens of the Fauntleroy Watershed Council
e-mail Judy at judy_pickens@msn.com or visit www.fauntleroy.net for more information

Have you noticed that nearly all pollution-prevention advice to the general public is for the haves - the people who own a yard or a car or a dog? How about providing opportunities for those underserved communities to learn about taking care of Puget Sound?

A marine-science project undertaken this spring by the Fauntleroy Watershed Council addressed this question, using a \$1,200 grant associated with the Puget Sound Starts Here campaign. It was a hit-the-ground-running project, with just a few days to apply and only two months to implement.

The focus was on working with a fifth-grade class at West Seattle Elementary in High Point, one of three schools in the Seattle district recently declared "failing" by federal standards. The 28 students came from Somali, Hispanic, Vietnamese, Eritrean, Filipino, Samoan, African American, and white American cultures and several were recent immigrants.

Judy Pickens secured the grant on behalf of the watershed council and collaborated with the school, Seattle Aquarium, and Seattle School District staff to provide learning opportunities aimed at helping students and their families see Puget Sound as a sensitive habitat worth caring about.

The unit kicked off with a classroom presentation of marine wildlife provided by the aquarium, followed by a field trip to the aquarium the next day for a tidepool workshop and a look at all the exhibits. At super-low tide the following week, students explored the beach at Lincoln Park with aquarium-trained naturalists; at-home parents and small siblings were invited to come along. The following day, school district science coaches brought a high-powered microscope to the classroom to have a look at micro life in a water sample from the beach.

"Everyone needs to help clean up Puget Sound, yet most water-quality advice is for people with a certain level of income," Judy explained. "Being on the low end of the economic scale, however, probably heightened their enthusiasm for learning about sealife. Most had never been to the aquarium and some had never been to the beach."

To move from awareness to behavior change, teacher Tara Slinden challenged students to think about what they and their families could do to keep from polluting the Sound. The poster with student photos that capped the unit summarizes their advice: Keep trash and beverages out of the water while picnicking on the beach, don't flush medications down the toilet, and teach younger kids about sealife.

"Perhaps the most significant outcome of the project was sparking staff interest in making marine science a regular part of the curriculum," Judy noted. "The project validated how working in partnership with community volunteers and resources can enhance what the school can do on its own."



"Pease touch" (left) was the rule as volunteer Liz Thomas encouraged West Seattle Elementary students to examine sea critters during a workshop at the Seattle Aquarium. Photo courtesy Fauntleroy Watershed Council

Salmon Watcher Training – Eyes on the Prize

Wednesday Sept 29, 7-9 PM

Northgate Community Center
10510 5th Avenue NE Seattle 98125



Volunteer For a Unique Northwest Experience

For more information [click here](#)

The Salmon Watcher Program trains volunteers to identify and record species and numbers of spawning salmonids. This multi-jurisdictional effort is focused at protecting a Pacific Northwest treasure and educating the community in the process. Our dedicated volunteers watch for fish on their assigned creeks two times a week from September through December. The information they collect helps us know where salmon are spawning in our streams, and sometimes where barriers exist to salmon migration. Volunteers act as our "eyes and ears" in the watersheds and give us a heads up when things go awry in our neighborhood creeks.

Leading with Science

Prevent Pollution



Phospho – what? Phosphorus can negatively impact our waters, and guess what; it's used in dishwashing detergent! Keep your eyes peeled for this ingredient during your next shopping trip, and pick dishwashing detergents that omit Phosphorus.

SPU Public Arts Program Celebrates Salmon in the City



Salmon Bay Area Natural Sculpture Dedication

On Saturday, July 17th, about 75 people gathered at Salmon Bay Natural Area, just west of the Ballard Locks, to be a part of the dedication ceremony welcoming the work of celebrated Native American artist Marvin Oliver. Oliver (Quinault, Isleta Pueblo), a renowned mixed media artist perhaps best known for his mastery of form-line designs, created a 16-foot bronze Native welcome figure, titled "A Salish Welcome", to overlook Salmon Bay.

The Salmon Bay Natural Area has recently undergone extensive habitat restoration. Seattle Public Utilities has been working closely with Groundswell NW, to protect 600 feet of shoreline that is vital for salmon as they enter the channel and return to the sea. To view a map of this area, [click here](#). According to Groundswell NW, the Salmon Bay Natural area, "offers a rare opportunity to enhance the degraded estuary of the greater Lake Washington watershed, a critical environment in the life cycle of threatened Puget Sound salmon. As the smolts make their way through the Locks, battered and disoriented by the abrupt transition to salt water and vulnerable to predators, an area for refuge and adjustment to the new environment is essential for their survival. Restoration of this property will enhance this refuge, giving the smolts a better chance of gaining the body weight they need to thrive in the open ocean."

The late summer is an important time for the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest region as the salmon return to the local waterways. Their annual return represents a time of celebration and renewal, often filled with traditional ceremonies and practices. Marvin Oliver's welcome figure will face the migrating salmon, a symbolic gesture to the return of the sacred fish. Cecile Hanson, chair of the Duwamish Tribe, delivered the blessing at the welcoming ceremony. Stressing the relationship to and dependence on the salmon, Hanson underscored the importance of programs that protect and restore salmon numbers as vital to the health of our environment and community.

The Welcome Figure was funded by the Department of Neighborhoods' Neighborhood Matching Fund and Seattle Public Utilities 1% for the Arts program. Click on the link for more information on [SPU's Public Arts Program](#).

In addition to being an internationally celebrated artist, Marvin Oliver (right) is a professor at the University of Washington. For more information on Oliver and his work, visit his website at <http://www.marvinoliver.com>



Is your yard asking for a makeover? Explore porous paving alternatives. Available as pavers, flagstone, gravel or reinforced grass, these options allow rain to soak down to your soil. Check out the [Rainwise Tools](#) to learn more.



Leading with Science

Slow the Flow of Stormwater

Heron Habitat Helpers – Community Makes a Difference

Fixing the Mistakes of the Past at Kiwanis Ravine Park

Submitted by Kay Shoudy of Heron Habitat Helpers

For more information e-mail info@heronhelpers.org or visit heronhelpers.org

In 2001 the Heron Habitat Helpers (HHH) set out to restore Kiwanis Ravine Park in Seattle, a small steep ravine near the Ballard Locks that shelters an active and growing heron colony. Over nine years later, the members of HHH have acquired a great deal of experience and a realistic view of what can be accomplished when trying to undo the devastation of many decades. Today, thanks to the work of the HHH and meaningful partnerships, the herons are thriving.

Restoration takes a lot of time, physical effort and money. HHH has been able, through expert grant writing, to accumulate nearly \$700,000 in grants from various public and private sources. Nearly a quarter of this funding came from the Restore Our Waters Aquatic Habitat Matching Grants, for restoration of the riparian areas along Wolfe Creek which runs through the ravine. HHH contracts with Earth Corps, a non-profit Seattle based organization specializing in community-based environmental restoration, and other restoration groups to perform work in the steep ravine. In more level areas, HHH organizes work groups of volunteers from organizations and individuals who spend hundreds of hours pulling invasive plants and replanting with native plants. Future work will be supplemented by \$600,000 in Seattle Park bonds to complete the restoration.

Much of the ravine has been altered over the years by filling and dumping that caused erosion and leaching, and invasive blackberry vines and ivy, making many areas virtually impenetrable. Wolfe Creek no longer carries enough water to remove silt because much of the natural water has been diverted over the years as development

occurred. Donna Kostka, one of the “founding mothers” of HHH and now a Seattle Park Board Commissioner, reminds us that work groups once removed more than 40 tires in a quarter acre, as well as a car chassis and a refrigerator!

There are many challenges to habitat restoration when working with herons. The period of time when work can be conducted in the ravine is also limited by the heron's breeding cycle. Workers cannot go in to weed, clear or plant from February to August while the birds are on their nests. The results may be slow, but the changing ecology is starting to emerge. Take a visit to the Overlook on 36th Ave. W. at W. Ohman Place to see some well-established and very handsome native greenery.

Much work is left to be done. A long-term goal is to daylight Wolfe Creek to Salmon Bay in Puget Sound and connect the ravine to Commodore Park. Although feasible, it is a costly undertaking and will take many years of small and large projects

to free and restore the creek. Constant maintenance is also required to keep out invasive plants from once again taking hold. Continuing urban development around the Ravine threatens the drainage basin and the quiet breeding space for the birds.

HHH has been most fortunate in receiving attention and dollars from the City of Seattle and working with committed and knowledgeable staff people on projects. HHH volunteers are indispensable. The heron colony is growing as Kiwanis Ravine is slowly becoming a restored habitat. Current discussions with Seattle Parks Department indicate that Kiwanis will become the City's first “wildlife sanctuary”--entering a brand new chapter in our local history. The reward to HHH efforts is realized when the Herons are seen gliding across Salmon Bay and fishing along the shore, even as our city continues to grow.



Leading with Science

Restore Habitat



Healthy urban forests mean healthy waters. Do your part and join the effort to restore our urban forests. Join Seattle Green Partnership for their 5th Annual Green Seattle Day November 6th. For more information, [click here](#).

Upcoming Events

Salmon Return Family Festival

September 11

Olympic Sculpture Park

www.seattleartmuseum.org/getout

Restore Our Waters Cascade

Spawning Cycle

September 12

Seward Park

www.cascade.org/EandR

Salmon Homecoming Celebration

September 17 – 18

Seattle's Waterfront Park and

Seattle Aquarium

www.salmonhomecoming.org

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance Seattle Waterfront Cleanup

September 25

Myrtle Edwards Park

www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/events

Green Seattle Partnership – Green Seattle Day

November 6

Locations throughout city

www.greenseattle.org/green-seattle-day

Questions?

Feel free to contact ROW staff directly.

Find the answers to many of your Questions online at:

www.seattle.gov/RestoreOurWaters

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